

Message Text

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SUBJ: AMERICAN CONDUCTOR DENNIS BURKH

REF: PRAGUE 638

1. AMERICAN CONDUCTOR DENNIS BURKH, CURRENTLY ON A CONCERT TOUR OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, INTENDS TO INVITE TWO SLOVAK MUSICIANS TO THE U.S. FOR A SERIES OF CONCERTS AND LECTURES. BURKH IS AFFILIATED WITH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, WHICH WOULD ACT AS THE BASIC SPONSOR. ACCORDING TO BURKH THE UNIVERSITY WOULD TAKE CARE OF ALL INTERNAL U.S. EXPENSES, BUT HE INTENDS TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION.

2. IN PAST YEARS BURKH HAS MADE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR AT LEAST TWO OTHER SLOVAK MUSICIANS, ONE CONDUCTOR AND ONE PIANIST. DUE AT LEAST IN PART TO THESE EFFORTS HE HAS BEEN INVITED YEARLY TO CONDUCT IN SLOVAKIA AND BOHEMIA.

3. BURKH'S CURRENT TWO CANDIDATES FOR A U.S. VISIT ARE:

(A) ALADAR MOZI - DIRECTOR OF THE RADIO ORCHESTRA OF BRATISLAVA AND REPUTEDLY A NOTED VIOLIN TEACHER. BURKH INTENDS TO INVITE HIM FOR A TEN-WEEK PERIOD BETWEEN DECEMBER 1974 AND MARCH 1975 FOR LECTURES AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY.

(B) FERDINAND KLINDA - ORGANIST. TO BE INVITED FROM 25 SEPTEMBER TO 25 OCTOBER 1974 FOR LECTURES AND PERFORMANCES AT MICHIGAN STATE AND MICHIGAN UNIVERSITIES, AND DEMONSTRATIONS
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OF CZECH FOLK INSTRUMENTS IN CHICAGO AND OTHER ILLINOIS AND

MICHIGAN CITIES.

4. BURKH ALSO DISCUSSED WITH EMBASSY PROJECTED PLANS FOR HIS APPEARANCE AT THE BRNO FESTIVAL IN 1975 AND THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS BECOMING A RESIDENT DIRECTOR FOR YEAR OF THE KOSICE OPERA.

5. WHILE IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW NOT AT THE TOP OF HIS FIELD, BURKH HAS BEEN THE MOST CONSISTENTLY ACTIVE AMERICAN MUSICIAN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS. HE HAS FACILITATED A SERIES OF MUSICAL EXCHANGES, IN THEMSELVES A USEFUL IDEA, EVEN THOUGH THE U.S. HALF OF THE EXCHANGE SEEMS TO HAVE REMAINED BURKH HIMSELF.

6. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF THE POSSIBLE RAMMIFICATIONS OF SUBJECT OF REFTTEL, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT IF DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO ASSIST FUNDING U.S. VISITS IN THIS CATEGORY SPONSORED BY MICHIGAN STATE, IT DO SO WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT BURKH BE NO LONGER ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM AND THAT THE BASE OF RECIPROCAL U.S. MUSICIANS VISITING CZECHOSLOVAKIA BE BROADENED.
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